

corresponding to the greater relative depth of the calcarine sulcus, exists in this brain, as in that of *Lemur* and *Galago* and all the true Apes.

“The brain of *Stenops* conforms closely with that of *Lemur*, both in its general form and the disposition of its surface-markings. The principal differences that were observed between them are described in the paper; and then follows a comparison of the brains of these two animals with those of the higher Quadrumana. As has been so well shown by M. Gratiolet, in his beautifully illustrated memoir upon this subject, a certain type both of general configuration and of surface-markings pervades the brain of all the *Primates*, from Man to the Marmoset. From this type M. Gratiolet excludes the Strepsirrhine Quadrumana, placing them, with the Insectivora, in a group of Mammalia whose cerebral organization he considers to be quite distinct from that of the two first families of Quadrumana. The author of the present paper finds reason to dissent from this proposition, and upon cerebral characters alone would retain the *Lemurs* in the position assigned to them by the majority of systematic zoologists—admitting, however, that, while possessing certain very important points of structure peculiar to the *Primates*, they are in many respects, especially in the shortness of the posterior lobes, an aberrant group, forming a transition towards the Cheiroptera, Carnivora, and other inferior Mammalia.”

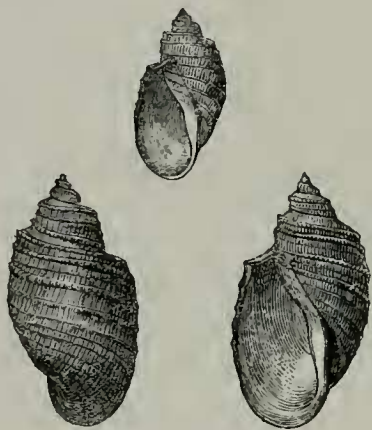
This paper will be published at full length in the Society's ‘Transactions,’ and appropriately illustrated.

The following paper was read:—

ON A NEW FORM OF PHYSA, OF THE SECTION AMERIA, RECEIVED FROM GEORGE FRENCH ANGAS, ESQ., OF ANGASTON, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY. BY LOVELL REEVE, F.L.S.

The genus *Physa* occurs abundantly in the ponds and ditches of Europe and North America, and throughout the intertropical mainland and islands of the Eastern hemisphere. But in all the numerous species belonging to this wide range of geographical distribution the shell is regularly convex and smooth. In Australia and New Zealand a new type appears, in which the shoulder of the whorl is broadly angled. Eight species, in the collection of Mr. Cuming, characterized by this angular growth, some of them with the spire flatly immersed—two from New Zealand, the rest from North Australia, Port Essington, and the Boyne, Calliope, and Fitzroy Rivers—have been lately described by Mr. Henry Adams under the new generic title of *Ameria*, all being uniformly smooth. They differ from the rest of the *Physæ* in being formed on the angular type; they resemble them in being still destitute of sculpture. The form of *Physa* now introduced from South Australia is of the angular type, but it differs from all others in being sculptured transversely with thread-like ridges. The shells of the allied genus *Limnæa* are

convex and typically smooth; but there are two (*L. ovata* and *emarginata*, Say) which incline to develop obscure, irregularly formed ridges. The ridges of these *Limnææ* are not, however, analogous to the ridges of our new form of *Physa*. They are not of the same symmetrical, persistent growth, and have more the appearance of arising from a casual malleation of the surface of the shell.



PHYSA (AMERIA) ALICIÆ. *Ph. testa anguste obtecte umbilicata, suboblongo-ovata, tenui, inflata, flavescenti-cornea, spira parviuscula plus minus acute exserta; anfractibus tribus ad quatuor, superne subabrupte declivi-angulatis, deinde convexis, transversim undique filoso-liratis, liris inæqualibus inæquidistantibus, interstitiis striis fibrosis incrementi, super liras et ad suturas plicato-scabrosis, creberrime longitudinaliter decussatis; apertura suboblongo-ovata, labro tenuissime membranaceo reflexo.*

Long. $\frac{3}{4}$, lat. $\frac{3}{8}$ poll.

Hab. Lower Murray River, below Moorandi, and River Gawler, South Australia: in small ponds under stones, and attached to aquatic plants brought up by the dredge (*Angas*).

"This interesting form of *Physa*," writes Mr. Angas, "I should like to be dedicated to my eldest daughter Alicia, who found the first specimen, and called my attention to it;" and I have great pleasure in complying with a request so highly deserving of a lasting and honourable acknowledgment. The shell is of a slightly inflated oblong structure, with a rather small spire, sharply exserted, but more so in the specimens from the Gawler than in those from the Lower Murray River. Round the upper shoulder, so to speak, the whorls are rather narrowly sharply angled, forming a subconcave slope from the suture, below which the shell is encircled with thread-like ridges. The ridges are parallel throughout, but unequal in substance and in distance from each other, being especially finer and more crowded towards the base. The outer surface of the shell is composed of a yellowish, horny, membranaceous cuticle, of which the striæ of growth cross the interstices between the ridges in very close and strongly marked succession, and in the sutures and on

crossing the ridges they rise in minute scabrous plications. The aperture is enamelled with a tinge of ruddy colour.

The upper figure represents the shell of the natural size. In the lower figures it is enlarged to show the scabrous plications.

March 25, 1862.

Dr. J. E. Gray, V.P., in the Chair.

The Secretary announced that Dr. G. Bennett, F.Z.S., had shipped a living Kagu (*Rhinochetus jubatus*) for the Society from Sydney on the 16th of January previous, and read the following extracts from a letter just received from that gentleman relating to the habits of this remarkable bird:—

“Of the two Kagus brought from New Caledonia alive, one died on the 4th of January, 1862, and on dissection proved to be a female. It was larger than the one now sent to England alive; and when that one dies (as the plumage and crest are similar, and both appeared to be fully grown, the only distinction being size) it would be interesting to ascertain the sex. The Kagu is a very interesting bird, readily domesticated. It is amusing to see them politely bowing their heads one to the other, elevating their crests at the same time, and then finish by coquetting about. They climb up the wires in front of their place of confinement just as the Red-billed Porphyrios. They often leap, aided by the wings, upon the stumps or low branches of trees; but they invariably roost on the ground, in an erect position, with the head buried between the shoulders or under the wing, and in confinement never seek any elevated position for roosting. In New Caledonia they are usually seen about the sea-coast, by the side of rivers; and although in some parts of the island they are very numerous, yet about the settlement of Port du France they are seldom seen more than from two to four together at the same time. When disturbed they only fly to the height of a few feet, and escape into the thick brushwood. They are eaten by the natives. A lady just returned from New Caledonia informs me that a pair have been kept tame at Port du France for nearly three years, and are well-known roamers of the streets of that settlement. When a dog approaches them, they elevate their crests and flap their wings to drive it away. They are usually to be seen about those places where the men are digging, approaching them fearlessly for the sake of procuring worms or grubs that are turned up from the ground by the hoe or spade. The same lady describes a noise they make in their wild state, when concealed among the reeds or bushes, as resembling that of a young puppy crying for its mother.”

The following extract was read from a letter addressed by Colonel Abbott to George O. Wray, Esq., and communicated by the latter gentleman to the Secretary:—